

## Devotional and Selections

### TWENTY-THIRD PSALM.

The Lord is my shepherd,  
No want comes to me;  
He leads by still waters,  
Where green pastures be.

He restoreth my soul,  
For His dear name's sake;  
In the path's of the righteous,  
My feet doth He take.

Though I walk through the vale,  
Where death holds its sway,  
I will not fear evil,  
Since His rod is my stay.

He spreadeth my table,  
In face of my foe;  
He anointeth my head,  
My cup runneth o'er.

Since goodness and mercy,  
Are mine all my days,  
I'll dwell in the house of  
The Lord then always.

—S. P. Orr.

### ONE WAY.

One of the best members of the church we ever knew came into the church a stranger and adopted a line of conduct very unusual. She reported to the pastor on the Sabbath of her arrival. She did not wait to be hunted up. She said: "Here I am, and I am ready for work." Without waiting for any special "welcome" from the old members of the church, she kept her eyes open for newcomers, and converted herself at once into a "welcomer." She sought around the neighborhood for schoolless children, and brought them to the Sabbath school, and developed and organized her own class. She went to one or two of the ladies' societies and joined them promptly. She did not wait to be solicited to undertake any duty of work. She sought out these herself. It is not to be wondered at that within three or four months she had made her own place in that church, and became one of the most active factors and the pastor's "right hand."—Southern Presbyterian.

### BE SATISFIED.

Be an optimist. Those who bring things to pass are optimists. Keep your standard high and do your level best to attain it. Above all things see that good cheer exists. Be happy at your work and give the best that is in you. There is a surfeit of pessimistic and unprofitable people on the market of the world. What is needed now is men who have constructive ideas and who can honestly deliver the goods. Such people include every one from the highest executive down to the one who performs the lowliest service. All are necessarily parts and parcels of the great machine known as human prosperity, and those who do not perform their duty serve the purpose of clogging the machine and of making its operation more difficult. Be satisfied with that with which you are connected. Keep out of your mind the

thought that you could do better if you were somewhere else. This is an illusion which brings discontent, dissatisfaction and a resultant lack of progress.—The Guild.

### THE PERIL OF SAFETY.

There is always danger when we are so well safeguarded as to think we are beyond danger. In other words, whenever we cease to be alert against danger, we increase our risk from it. One who has had ample time to catch a train or keep an appointment, for example, has more than once failed to arrive on time simply because he thought there was plenty of time, and the minutes slipped away faster than they were noticed. That same person will keep an appointment punctually, over and over again, when he has allowed only just enough minutes and seconds to get there "on the dot." The trouble in the first instance lay, not in allowing plenty of time, for that is a good thing to do, but in supposing that plenty of time meant no further need of watchfulness. And the reason why the appointments were kept oftenest when time was scantiest was because the whole man was then awake and alert to the danger of failure. This is simply another illustration of the old warning, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed"—It is well to allow broad margins between ourselves and failure; but it is courting failure to think that the margin insures success.—S. S. Times.

### HIS HEART IS IN IT.

Why is it one preacher will reach a multitude and another will not? That is a question which it is seldom easy to answer, because there is no "secret" of success, unless we use the nebulous term "personality," and that does not answer. For who can tell us what personality is? The "secrets" are multiplex, and many of them escape analysis. But among them all, in the successful preacher we shall always find this:—When he looks out over his congregation on Sabbath morning "he has compassion on the multitude," as Jesus had; he puts himself in their place. No man with a heart in him can be formal or cold or unimpressive when he can say to himself at such a time, and feel it, "Here is a company of struggling men and women, each one the center of a history; each one in some indefinable way longing to be better than he is; each one stifling his own sob and fighting his own battle. And each one of these troubled men and women is silently pleading for some word of courage and hope." That is the "secret," if there is any secret. He sits where they sit. And this same "secret" of influence runs all through life. Whether our pulpit is in the church of the workshop, the school-house of the home, we can never really help others until, by the power of just such sympathy as the Master himself felt, we have put ourselves in their place. Thus, one teacher in the school is more successful than another. They may have the same equipment, and often have. But the first has learned to become in spirit a little child, to sit where the scholars sit. You want to help somebody. Then learn to sit where he sits. The last thing that the good Samaritan gave was his money.—George Thomas Dowling.